Espionage Trial Jury Picked, For Bethesda Ex-CIA Agent

4-12-77

By Robert Meyers
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BALTIMORE, April 11—A jury was selected today in the U.S. espionage trial of Edwin Gibbons Moore II, an ex-CIA employee accused of trying to sell secret documents to the Soviet Union.

Moore, II, 56, of 4800 Fort Sumner Dr., Bethesda, could be sentenced to up to life in prison if convicted of transmitting or offering to Soviet officials photocopies of pages from a classified January, 1973, CIA telephone directory. The directory listed the names, job descriptions, and locations of several hundred CIA employees, according to government officials.

Moore, who retired from the CIA as a mid-level statistician in 1973, could also receive up to 10 years in prison on each of the additional four national security charges against him. These concern the allegedly unauthorized possession of the January, 1973, phone book, and also a phone book dated April, 1973.

Moore has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. The trial is expected to last at least a month.

At the beginning of today's court session, U.S. District Court Judge Frank A. Kaufman agreed to drop three additional national defense counts relating to Moore's alleged unauthorized possession of two other documents. One of them was titled, "A Birdseye View of ELINT in Terms of a Source Potential and Application of the ELINT Training Course in Terms of Possible ORR Use in the Future." The other was described in the indictment as "a mimeographed intelligence report on the People's Republic of China prepared in 1958, consisting of 70 pages." No reason was given for the dropping of these three charges.

Moore was arrested last December a day after leaving a package of documents at an apartment building at 3875 Tunlaw Rd. NW used by Soviet Embassy officials. A note in the package offered other classified documents to the Soviets in exchange for $300,000, the FBI said at the time.

The alleged scheme was uncovered when a Soviet guard, thinking the package contained a bomg, called in U.S. authorities.

Government sources have said that information presented in court will be what the government does not object to having exposed and which no longer's of strategic value.

Moore remains in federal custody in lieu of a $100,000 personal surety bond. Opening arguments are scheduled for Tuesday.